

# Charles Thornton's Mission



Well I will get the children in off  
again and the people here are so  
friendly and nice and open since  
the war, the people here are so  
friendly and nice and open since

We got orders and today that we  
are to Afghanistan



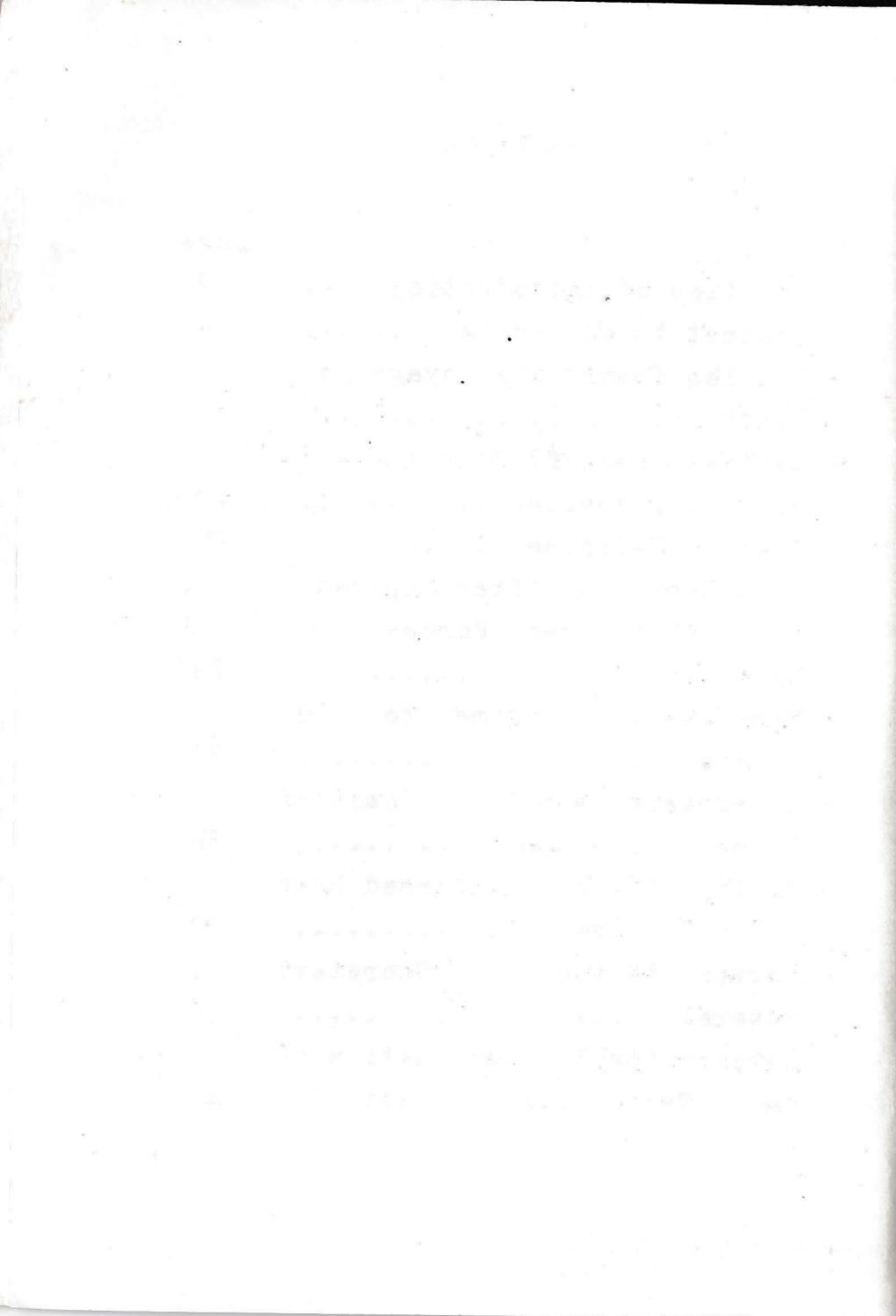
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Central Asia

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## Contents

	page
- In Lieu of Introduction ...	2
- Protest to US Senate .....	4
- Charles Thornton's Voyage to Death .....	9
- Medical Mission? Journalism ? or Intervention .....	23
- What a Medicine ! .....	25
- Arms Captured After Operation by the Armed Forces in Kandahar .....	29
- Families of Victims to US Senate .....	33
- Extermists Commit Another Crime .....	36
- Wrath, Shock Expressed over A N - 26 Crash .....	40
- Letter to the UN Secretary General .....	45
- International Condemnation of the Terroristic Act ..	47



## PREFACE

The Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan which is a social organization mobilizing the youth of the country for peace and construction of a new society has noted with deep regrets the interference and intervention of the imperialist and reactionary forces led by the US administration in the internal affairs of the DRA.

At a time when the PDPA and the government of the DRA has taken serious and responsible steps in supreme interest of the present and future generations i.e. the proposal of reconciliation, ceasefire, peace, truce and the formation of a national Unity government, the extremists under the patronage of imperialism and reaction are continuing the imposed and undeclared war. The shooting down of the civilian plane recently in Khost demonstrates this.

Our people and youth condemn this and are determined to march forward for establishment of peace and a new prosperous Afghanistan.

IN LIEU OF INTRODUCTION

On 3rd of September, 1985 the mass media in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan reported:

"At 11:08 AM, local time a civil airliner of the Bakhtar Afghan Airlines, after refueling at the Kandhar Airport in a domestic flight on its way from Kabul to Farah was shot and crashed by a ground-to-Air Rocket at an altitude of 3,800 metres. All the passengers on board along with the crew were killed."

According to the accepted International norms and inter state conventions such acts are condemned. The Convention on Preventing Illegal Deeds against the Immunity of Civil Aviation regards the Perpetrators of such deeds as guilty.

The act of terrorism took the life of 47 passengers and the 5 crew on board. No complex study is needed to come to the conclusion that the weapon used was modern and sophisticated one. The altitude at which this civil airliner of the Bakhtar

Afghan Airlines was shot clearly showed after examination and at a close scrutiny of the aviation experts it was proved that this aircraft with innocent civilians on board was shot down by NATO made "Blewpipe" an anti-Aircraft Rocket.

This shooting down of the Bakhter Afghan Airliner is recorded as the worst aircrash in the history of the Afghan civil aviation.

After a few days the reports of the aviation experts, were fully justified. It was the extremists along with their US masters who had shot the plane with "Stinger" Rocket which they had received as "humanitarian aid" from the Reagan Administration. The present information clearly reveals the story behind this act of terrorism. It unmasks the mission of the Western and US mercenaries in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan who illegally cross the borders and are involved in inhuman acts, in disturbing peace and security of the people. This information is an example of the many such crimes commi-

tted by the mercenaries. This is the story of Charles Thornton, a US claimed journalist who came as a reporter with a "Medical Mission" but with a CIA licence to Kill.

#### PROTEST TO U.S. SENATE

The peoples of the world have once again been informed of another shameless and black crime of the counter-revolution of Afghanistan of late. At 11:8 a.m; on the 3rd of September, 1985, a civil airliner of the Bakhtar Civil Afghan Airlines Company, after getting fuel from Kandahar in a domestic flight on its way from Kabul to Farah, was hit and crashed by a ground-to-air rocket at an altitude of 2,800 metres (3,800 metres standard). And, all people on board the plane, 47 passengers and 5 crew members, including six children, seven women, two physicians, one engineer and other civilians, were killed.

This is a big crime, a misanthropic, anti-Islamic deed in contravention of all

laws, regulations and international conventions on civil aviation. It would, whenever may it be necessary, disclose once again the ugly, trick and predatory nature of the counter-revolutionary elements of Afghanistan, who enjoy the full support of the reaction of the region, and Chinese hegemonism and imperialism headed by US imperialism.

It is not the first time that the counter-revolution of Afghanistan resorted to such an ominous deed against the air planes of the DRA of civilian airlines. Last year, an airliner DC-10 was attacked by the counter-revolution and got heavy damage. A group of Afghan counter-revolutionaries and a number of Pakistani spies caught in the DRA disclosed twice the plans on hijacking Afghan civil airliners.

Is the accomplishment of all these criminal and disgraceful deeds possible without the support of the reaction of the region, particularly that of Pakistan, Chinese hegemonism and international imperialism, headed by US imperialism ?

Is it not imperialism and reaction, who finance, arm and equip the counter-revolutionaries and then despatch them into our revolutionary country ? Is it not the US Senate and the Reagan Administration, who endorsed the "aid" of 280 million dollars to the Afghan counter-revolution only for this year and decided some time back to put modern ground-to-air (Stinger) rockets at the disposal of Pakistan and the counter-revolution of Afghanistan ?

The altitude where the Bakhtar airliner was shot, shows that this crime was committed precisely by those up-to-date ground-to-air rockets. As a result, 52 people on the board the Bakhtar airliner, including the children, women and a number of other innocent people, became the victims of the dead-spreading rockets of the USA.

The Convention on Preventing Illegal Deeds against the Immunity of Civil Aviation regards the perpetrators of such deeds and their alliances as guilty. What a surprise that the United States of

America is not only the signatory of this convention, but is among the "guarantors" What a good guarantee !

This criminal deed of the Afghan counter-revolution, committed with the support of US imperialism, can only be named an act of blind terrorism and an inhumane crime.

Is it not the United States of America that cries over the struggle against international terrorism ? Yes, but imperialism calls the national liberation movements fighters of the path of freedom, peace and progress of peoples as terrorism. And, on the contrary, homicidal, plunderous and predatory Afghan counter-revolutionary bands, according to the tenants of the White House (don't laugh), are the fighters on the path of freedom, crusaders of Islam, militants of the righteous path.

To understand the way of political expressions of the White House one needs an interpretation, and should consider the black as white and the white as black. In fact, standing behind all these rhetorics

and phraseology in order to confuse the public opinion is the Reagan Administration which itself, being the supporter of international terrorism and its organiser, has elevated it to the level of its state policy.

We, pilots, flight engineers and stewardesses of the civil airlines of the DRA, strongly condemn this sawag deed, which infringes all laws and regulations of international aviation, the deed which has deranged the immunity of flights and endangered the life of passengers, the deed which is carried by US weaponry. We want to draw the attention of Messrs US Senators who wear the mask of the defence of human rights and support for democracy and friendship with the Afghan people, to the crime, committed with their help, the crime which moves and shocks the conscience of every honourable man on earth.

You should know that the counter-revolution of Afghanistan is doomed to decisive failure. The caravan of our revolution forges ahead victoriously. And

committing such shameless crimes only better discloses the real facts of the counter-revolutionaries and their international supporters before the world public opinion.

CHARLES THORNTON'S VOYAGE

TO DEATH

Charles Thornton was a reporter working for the American newspaper Arizona Republic. This was his apparent designation so as to have a cover for his other tasks given to him by the espionage agencies. He was killed in Afghanistan on the night of September 20, 1985 during an armed combat. The three note-books of Thornton's diary and his 14 reels of films confiscated by the Afghan security forces reveal his mission in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Charles Thornton who entered Afghanistan illegally along with the armed bandit groups first arrived in Pakistan in August 1985 together with Judd Jensen and John

Mowgan also US citizens. They, during their arrival, registered themselves as medical workers.



But this was not what Thornton, Jensen and Mowgan had entered Afghanistan, for. This task of "Medical mission" did not in any way, fit-in with the states or profession they had. They came here under a well drawn plan which included supply of arms, and espionage. The Americans preferred not to talk about the cargo they were to smuggle into Afghanistan even among <sup>themselves</sup>



The above Photo shows From left to Right, Charles Thornton, Judd Jensen and John Mowgan unloading the cargo. They have put on the Afghans dress so as to evade identification.

Charles Thornton along with his friends entered Afghanistan through Quetta, Pakistan into Kandahar, Province with the help of an extremist group of Mullah Malang belonging to the Khalis group they

were all armed and knew very well how to formulate military operation and use arms.



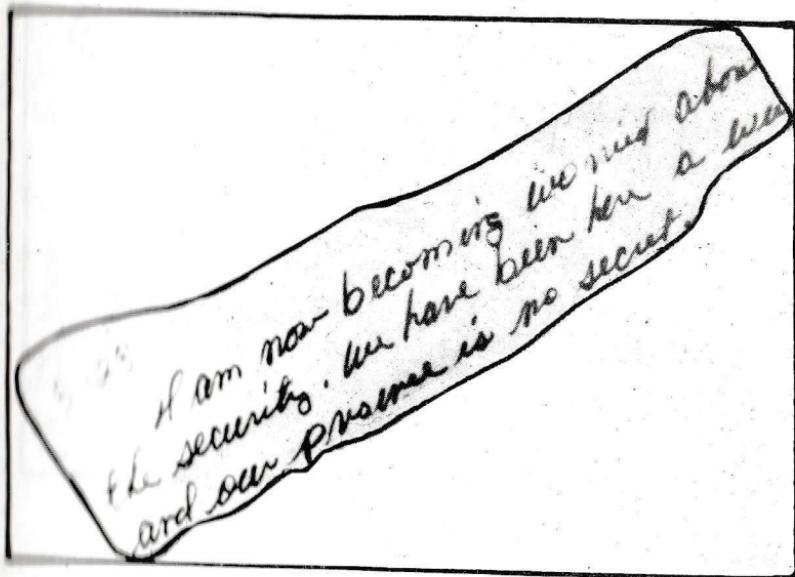
Judd Jensen in a fighting mood while his friend (next page) is plotting their war strategy.



Thornton had come to Afghanistan after a well organized plan. As Thornton writes in his notes before coming to Afghanistan in the United States he had met one person called Dr. Simen. He is the one who organizes the so-called "Medical Aids" to the "Mujahiddins" in Pakistan. In reality his work is more related to military and espionage activities than medical aid. He tells Thornton that he has mobilized 200 persons whom he wants to send to Afghanistan. Dr. Simen is a CIA agent who through his work is involved in military training of bandits and conducts espionage activities. Thornton says, himself that Simen gave a detailed information to him about the content of this mission and instructed him about necessary secrecy successors.

As Thornton writes no one around them knew anything about their mission or about who they were. These are excerpts from the diary of Thornton. He writes the

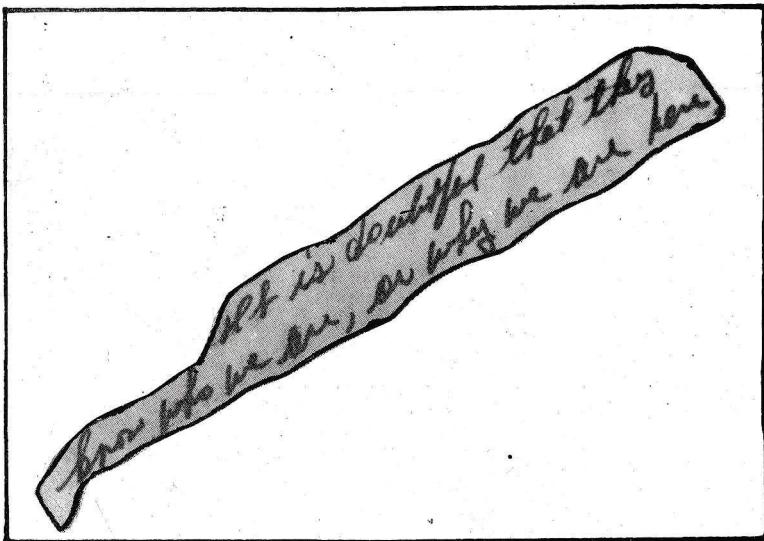
following lines on 28, August, 1985.



reads,

I am now becoming worried about the security, we have been here for a week, and our presence is no secret.

On the same day we read the following in his diary.

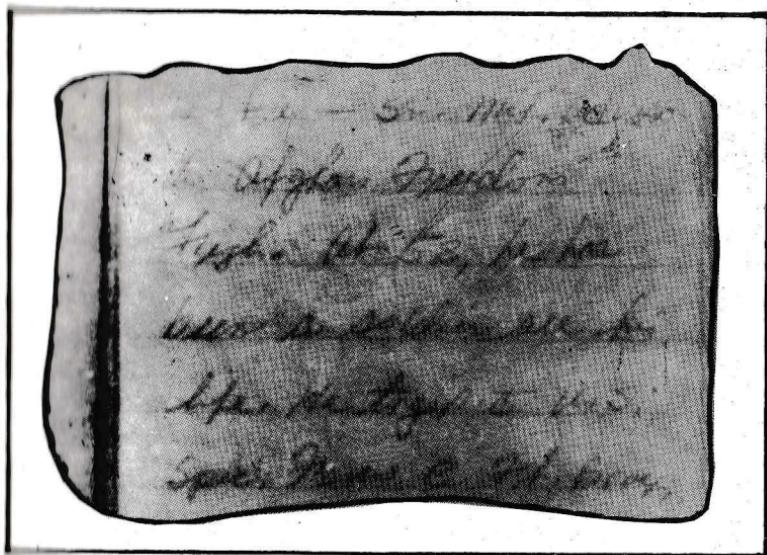


reads

It is doubtful that they know who we are, or why we are here.

Thornton and his other friends had come here after drawing a well plotted plan. His work was coordinated with the Pakistani authorities. One of them about whom he has written in his dairy is Rakhmatullah Safi. Safi is one of the Chief military adviser of the armed bandit groups fighting against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The following are

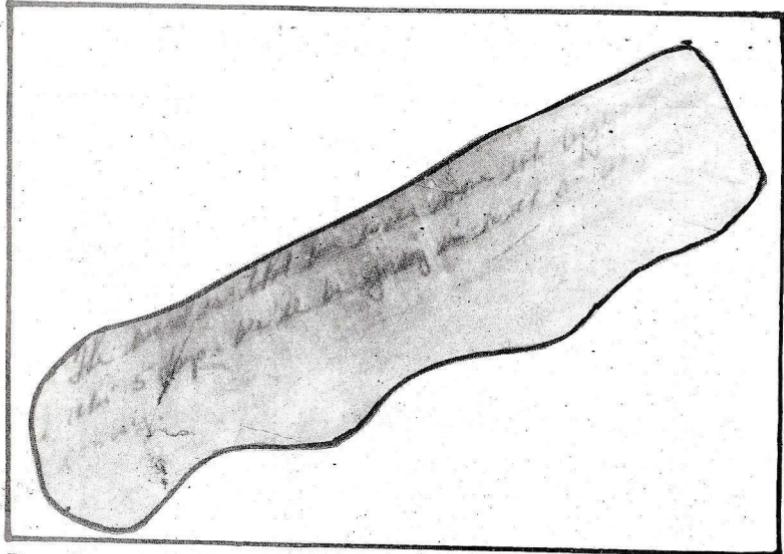
exerpts from Thoronton's diary.



Reads:

Meeting with Brigadier General Rahmatullah Safi-Special military adviser to Afghan freedom fighters. At 53 he has been a soldier all his life. Safi has graduated from a special subversive activities training centre in fort Bragg (USA).

Thoronton does not hide the fact that they entered Afghanistan with military preparations. The lines in his diary reveal this.



Reads:

The word is that we will move into Afghanistan with in 5 days. We will be going in with an armed convoy.

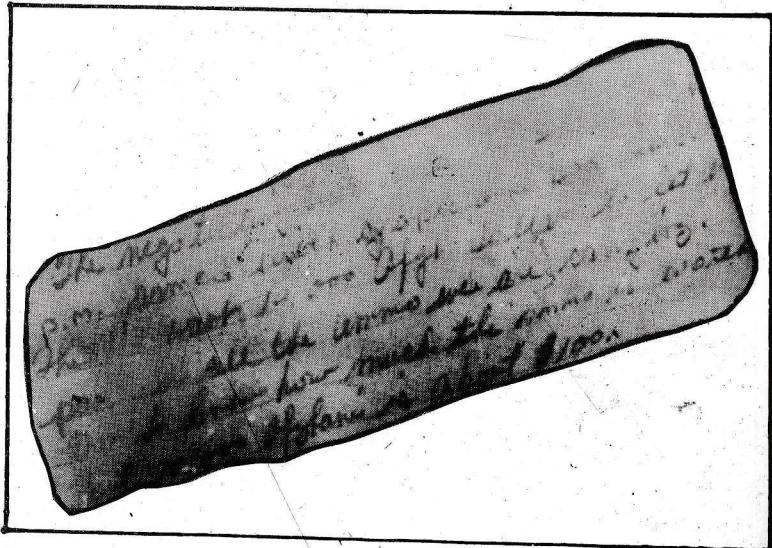


Charles Thoronton's friend Judd Jensen (Right) seen loading the truck with arms.



**Charles Thornton heading with the bandits towards Afghanistan.**

**The amount of ammunitions which they were carrying out was qualitatively and quantitatively worth huge amounts. This is what he writes.**



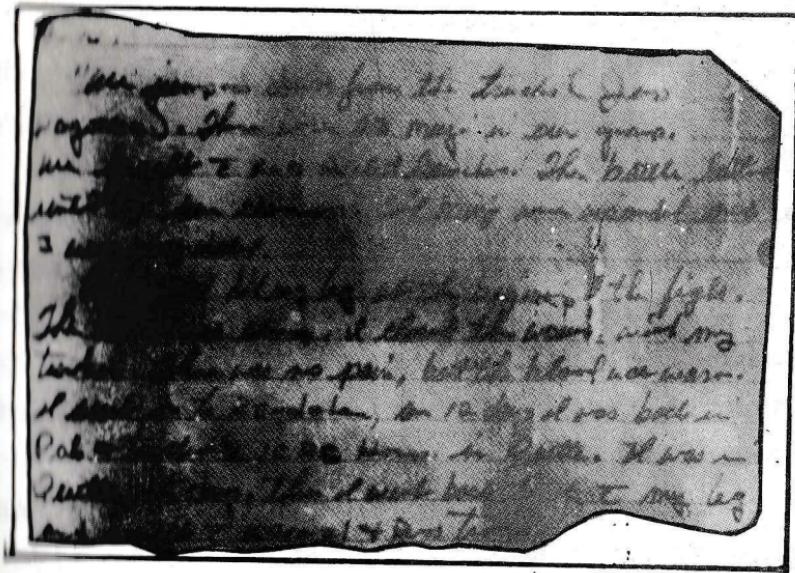
Reads:

The negotiating team returned shortly after 1.PM armed with grapes and bad news. The H's (Meaning Haji) wants 10,000 Afghans to let US pass, or the arms we are carrying. Don't know how much the ammunition is worth.

For more than two weeks the three Americans, disguised as Afghans with identity cards of a FRG, citizens travelled in Afghanistan.

In the course of their mission they travelled to very many places. They took part in military operations. This is what

Thornton writes in his diary on September 14, .



Reads:

We jumped down from the trucks. There were 23 mujahidin in our group. We fought with Kalashinkoves and rocket launchers. The battle lasted untill the sun came up. Six mujahiddins were wounded and 3 were killed.

A bullet hit my leg at the beginning of the fight. The blood was coming. I closed the wound with my turban. There was no pain, but the blood was warm. I

was in Quetta for 45 days, then I went back to Kandahar with my leg healed and fought with Afghan troops.

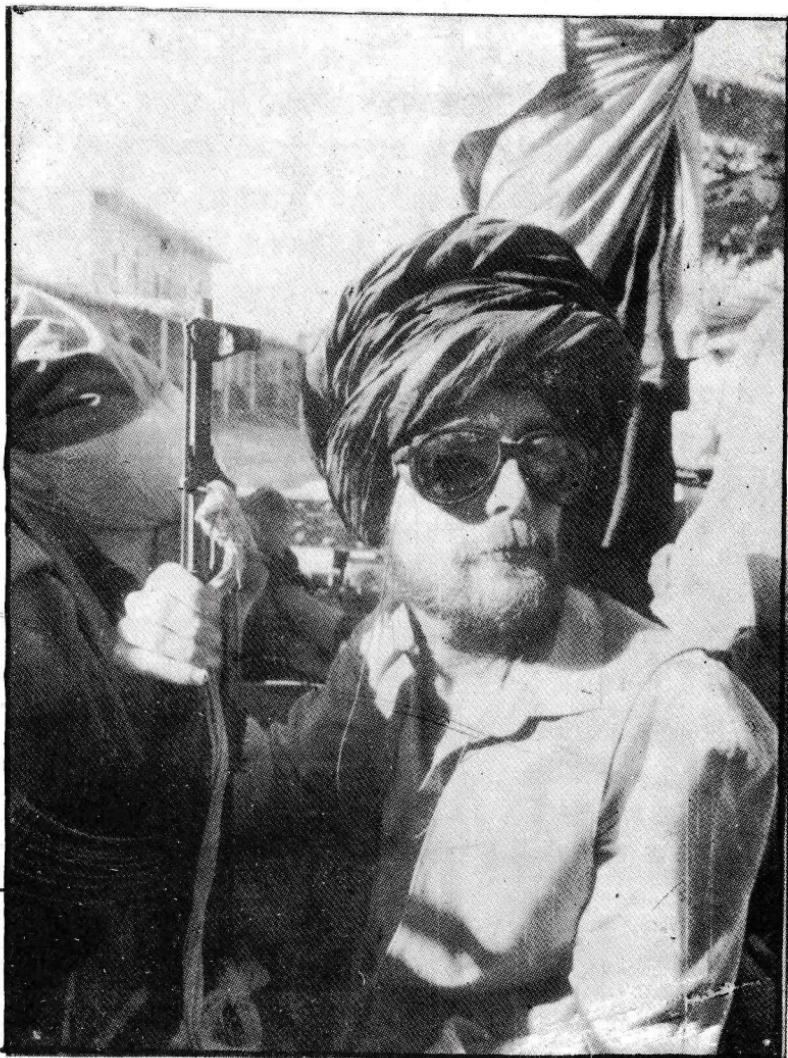
Charles Thoronton's death was not the only consequence of this fatal encounter. Hundreds of Americans and other western agents have crossed illegally into Afghanistan smuggling in arms and ammunitions.

It was during Charles Thoronton's mission that with the weapons which they had brought inside Afghanistan that they shot down a civilian aircraft, killing all those on board. What justification can one give to this shooting down of civil aircraft and to illegal entry of Charles Thoronton, and his friends inside Afghanistan ? It is but obvious and clear that the officials in Washington who sanctioned his assignment and sponsored the trip had little to do with journalism. They were given the task to transport ammunitions and to kill.

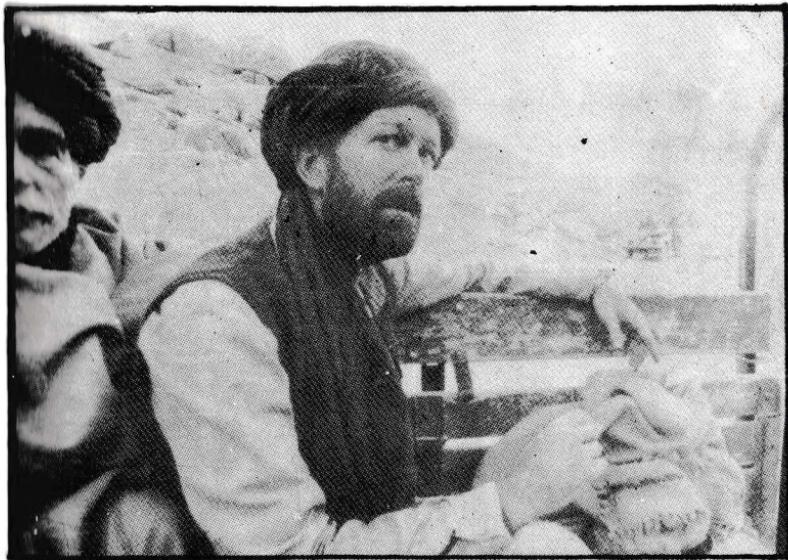
MEDICAL MISSION ?  
JOURNALISM ?  
OR, INTERVENTION.



Judd Jensen, on his way to Kandahar  
clad in Afghan dress.

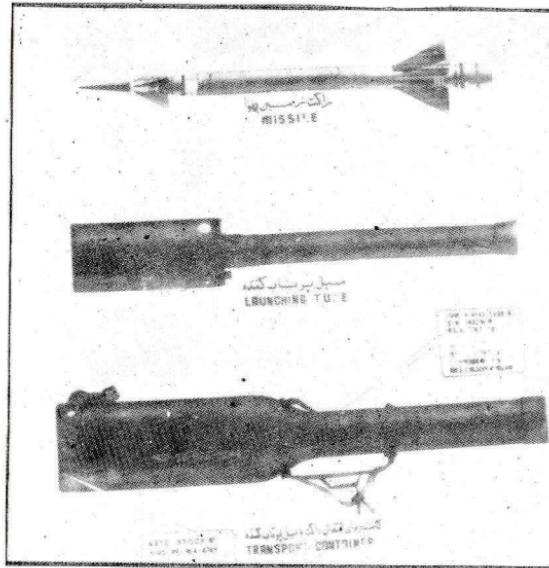


**WHAT A MEDICINE !**

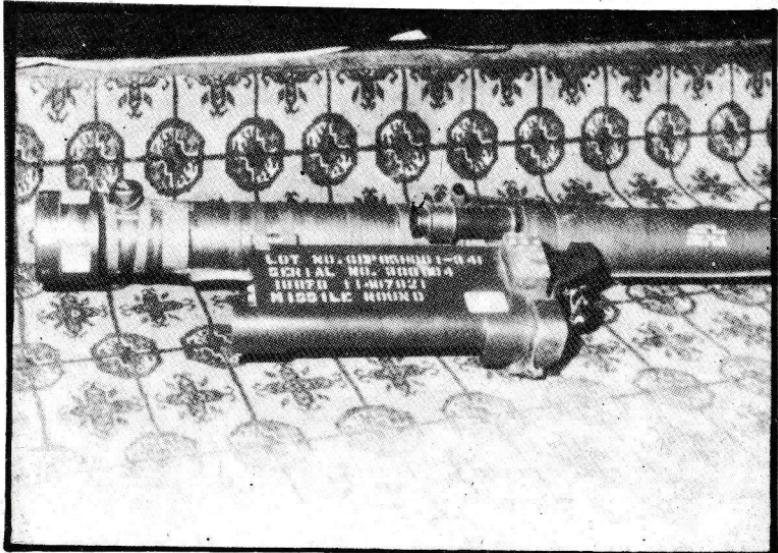


**They claimed that they had come to treat the people. While they were carrying a cargo of not medicines to treat but arms to kill.**



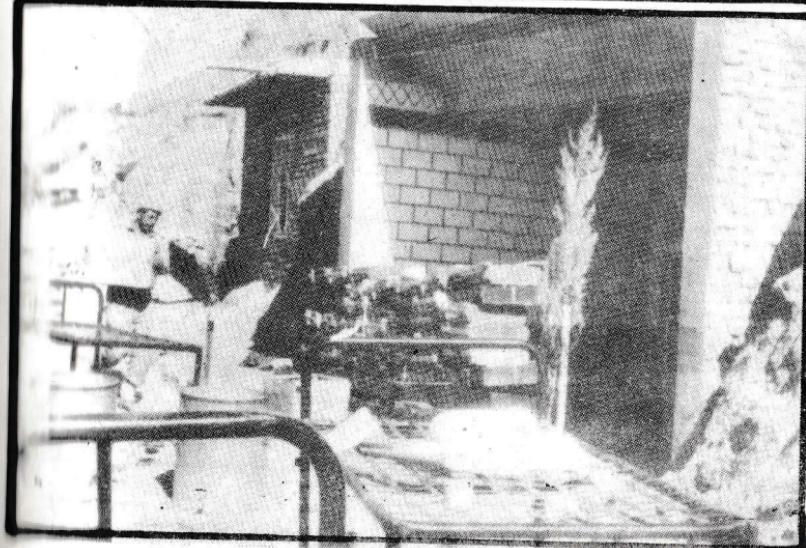
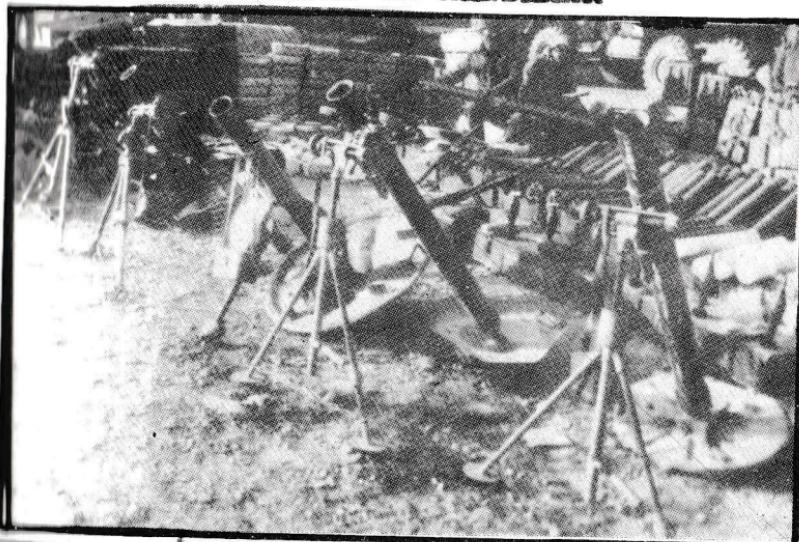


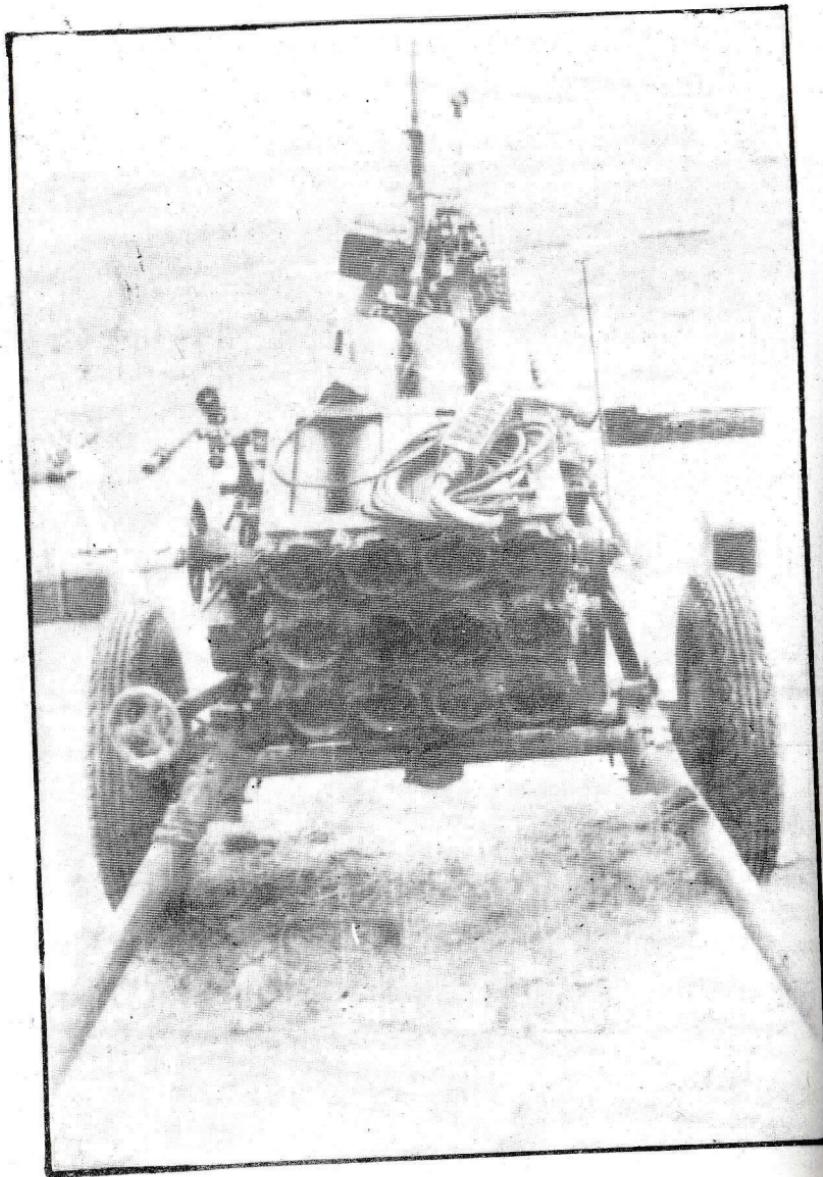
The weapon with which they shot down  
the civilian aircraft inside Afghanistan.

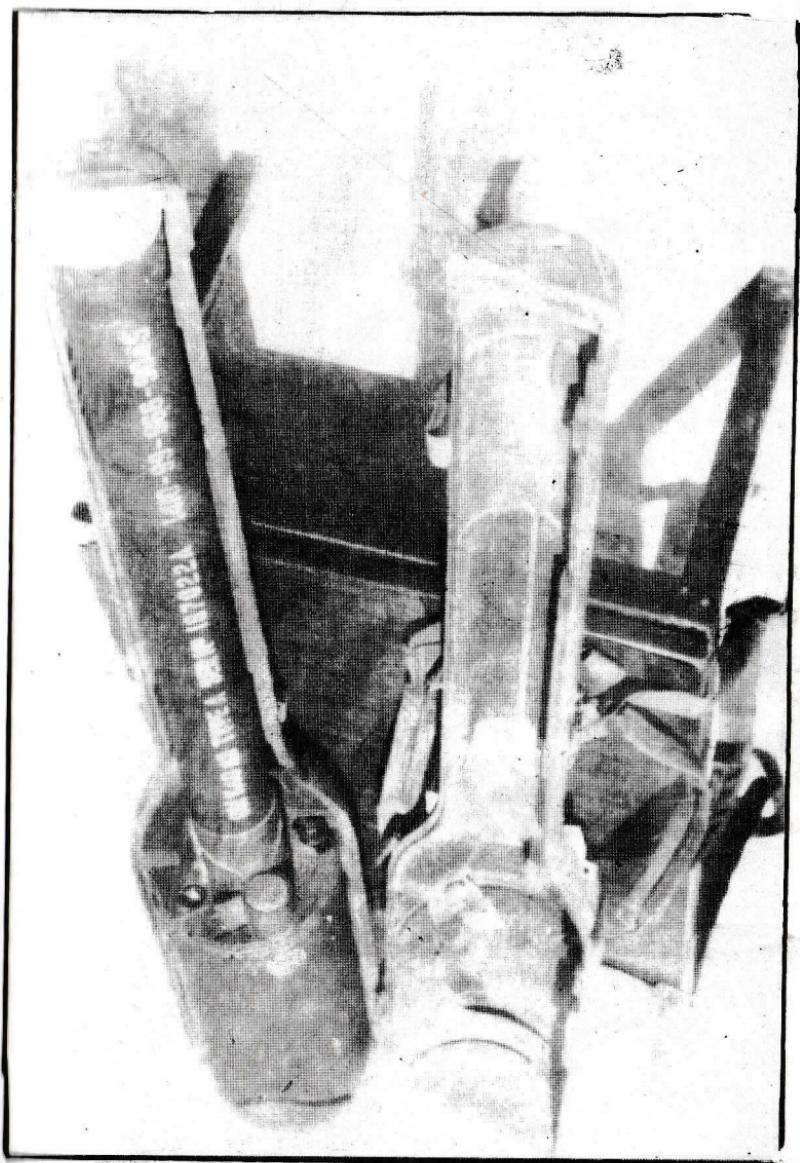


The US, administration and its NATO allies have given modren weapons to the bandits. In the picture we, can see. Blue Pipe (Above) and Stinger (Below), both anti-aircraft missiles.

ARMS CAPTURED AFTER  
OPERATION BY THE AFGHAN  
ARMED FORCES IN KANDAHAR









FAMILIES OF VICTIMS PROTEST TO US SENATE  
An open letter of the bereaving families  
addressed to the US Senate

It is possible for you gentlemen, who consider themselves the guardians of rights and defenders of justice and disguise themselves as civilized men, who with the same tricky pretexts endorse the supply of most deadly arms to their accomplices, that is, the professional terrorists, who acquire the methods of committing crimes from American gangsters, and who uprear when they hear the news on a number of martyrs killed at the hands of your hirelings and criminal servants, to answer a question before the human judgement whether your behaviour and logic include a bit of truth and justice?

You disgracefully endorsed the delivery of ground-to-air rockets of side-winder and stinger types to the counter-revolution of Afghanistan. One of these rockets hit a passenger plane and took

away the lives of our 52 innocent dears people -- children, women and elders. Is killing of defenceless people right? Does it accord with your justice, and religion? As we understand, the answer is "yes". It is the ruling circles of your country, who lead, organise and finance international terrorism. It is your weapons which make hundreds of people to drown in blood every day in every corner of the world.

Under the pretext that an American ship was fired at by the Vietnamese in the Tonkin Gulf, you spread blood and fire on the territory of Vietnam for several years. Under the pretext that the lives of some Americans were endangered in Lebanon, you spared no effort in massacring the Arab people in that country. Is the blood of Americans different from that of Vietnamese, Arabs and Afghans? What is the difference between you and fascist nazis who considered lawful to kill in a most barbaric manner

hundreds of citizes of another country against the killing of one German. Your government particularly the present one has shown that it takes revenge of its defeats from innocent civilism.

But, blood of no American has been shed in Afghanistan. None of your plane or ship have been shelled nor the life of any American has been in danger here. Then how can you justify your thirst for blood-shedding before the human judgement?

What pleasure do you get from shedding bleed of all these defenceless people, who are thousands of miles away from you?

What kind of law and justice do you have that you consider it legal to take away the lives of our dear ones, our hopes and our spiritual life. what difference do you, who consider themselves civilized, have from barbarians? But let us draw your blind eyes and filthy minds to the fact that we are always ready to

shed our blood for our revolution and proudly safeguard and strengthen it. We will make it so powerful so that no enemy could damage it. We have learnt these lessons from history. We hope that you must not forget the lessons learned from history, too.

Down with and curse be upon terrorists, criminals and their international supporters!

EXTREMISTS COMMIT ANOTHER CRIME

On 9th of February 1987, the extremists shot down a civilian aircraft killing 30 passengers and six crew. This happened at a time when the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has proclaimed national reconciliation. It has practiced ceasefire since 15 January 1987, and has voiced its full support for peace and formation of a national unity government with all the opposition forces.

All these historic steps have

been justly supported by the people. Thousands of refugees have returned home and hundreds of the armed groups have joined the process of national reconciliation, but the imperialist and reactionary forces have not stopped their arms supply to the extremist bands and thus support them in their crimes.

Below we reproduce some of the coverage of this tragic event in our media.

The cutthroats and hirelings of imperialism have committed another inhuman crime against the Afghan people by shooting down the AN-26 passenger plane on flight from Khost to Kabul. The innocent people who fell victim to this barbaric incident were mostly women and children.

Such monstrous acts, which are carried out by the extremist forces in connivance with the intelligence agencies of the imperialist countries, grossly violate the accepted norms of international law. For instance, such deeds fully contradict the Convention on Inter-

national Civil Aviation, drawn up at the Chicago International Civil Aviation Conference in 1944, and the procedures and code of conduct of the International Civil Aviation organization (ICAO.) The objectives of ICAO and the International Air Transport Association call for ensuring safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world and promote aircraft operation for peaceful purposes. These standards and recommended practices meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe regular , efficient and economical air transport.

In resorting to blind terrorism and adventurous acts the extremist forces do not conceal their open hostility against the relevant international norms and human behaviour. Their dastardly acts, which were revealed, among others, in the shooting down of the Bakhtar Afghan Airline plane in Kandahar in 1985 and in the recent tragic incident in Khost, have the tacit support of international

imperialism, the CIA in the first place.

The time chosen by the terrorists to step up their criminal attacks on civilian targets, including passenger planes, is not accidental. Hand in glove with the Reagan Administration, they are trying hard to defame and hinder the realization of the human and well-defined policy of national reconciliation initiated by the PDPA and the state of the DRA.

The Associated Press recently reported that in addition to the 2 billion dollars, earmarked so far by the USA against the DRA, Washington intends to put another package of 268 million dollars at the disposal of CIA in 1988 for its anti-Afghan activities. Moreover, the delivery of 150 stinger-type missiles to the opponents of the Afghan revolution manifests the endeavours of Washington to intensify its anti-Afghan activities exactly at a time when the Afghan people are launching a wide campaign in support of the process of peace and national reconciliation.

But such terrorist and irresponsible acts did not and could not slow down the march of the people for a tranquil life, peace and international security. The people of Afghanistan, along with the world public, express their profound wrath and indignation over terrorism and its instigators and call on governmental and non-governmental international organizations and forums to severely condemn such acts.

Wrath, shock expressed over  
AN-26 crash

AN-26 plane in Khost hit by a rocket fired by enemies of peace and tranquility of our people which resulted in the death of 30 fellow countrymen, including women, children and old men and of crew of six.

This shocking incident has aroused the indignation of our peace-loving people. Messages condemning the incident have been issued by the Extraordinary Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation, Lawyers' Association of the DRA as well as the All Afghanistan Women's Council.

The condolence message of the Extraordinary Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation in Afghanistan to the commission for national reconciliation in Khost division said:

"We have regrettably learnt of the crash of an AN-26 plane at 11:30 on February 9 carrying civilians from Khost to Kabul and the martyrdom of innocent countrymen including children, women and old men. Strongly denouncing this provocative action perpetrated by extremist elements on direct orders of imperialist circles, above all US imperialism, the Extraordinary Supreme Commission for NR in Afghanistan expresses its deep condolence to you and through you to the bereaved families. "The Commission said that such inhumane and irresponsible acts can not destabilise, as imperialists expected, the peaceable determination of our people to pursue the policy of national reconciliation.

The message of the Lawyers' Association of the DRA to the International Union

of Democratic Lawyers:

Your union may be aware, that the philanthropic policy of national reconciliation and the unilateral ceasefire based on legal standards has been proclaimed since January 15, 1987 by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to end the war and bloodshed, and to ensure peace and security in Afghanistan.

Despite this humanitarian policy some anti-progress extermist circles seek to prolong the undeclared war in its various farms.

We inform you with sorrow that a plane carrying civilians was shot down by extermists at 11:30 a.m on February 9, 1987 killing all 30 passengers, children, women and old men and the crew.

The Lawyers' Association of the DRA strongly condemns this act of the extermists and their international patrons perpetrated in the territory of DRA and earnestly requests the International Union

of Democratic Lawyers and other similar national and international organizations of sympathize with our cause and inform national and international societies of this inhumane act.

- This act is contrary to principles of law on national sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

- This action is contrary to the international conventions on security of planes, passengers and the crew and the Tokyo convention of 1968 on air security.

- This action runs counter to the principles of security of civilian and transport planes incorporated in Montral convention of 1971.

- Finally, it is completely contrary to the principles of UN Charter, UN Declaration on Human Rights and other international conventions and treaties.

Message of protest issued by All Afghanistan Women's Council on crash of AN-26 plane in Khost.

On behalf of all the women of Afghanistan, we strongly denounce the shooting

down of the passenger plane flying from Khost to Kabul by the enemies of Afghan people as a result of which 36 of our fellow countrymen, among them innocent children, and women, died.

It showed that the enemies of our people do not heed to call for stopping bloodshed. We ask the perpetrators of this crime, how they can speak of homeland, humanity and conscience. What guilt the children, women and other civilians who fell victim to this event had. This action committed in conditions of national accord and unilateral ceasefire proclaimed by the government of the DRA is far more gross and heart less.

This tragic event which has increased pains of our mourning mothers has once again proved that our sworn enemies, acting on orders of reactionary and imperialist circles are blood thirsty.

LETTER TO THE UN  
SECRETARY GENERAL

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DRA. Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo of the CC of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, wrote the following letter to Javier Perez De Cuellar UN, Secretary General informing him about the incident. The following is his letter.

Esteemed Javier Perez De Cuellar,

As you may have learned from the international mass media, a passenger plane of the DRA on a domestic flight was hit by an enemy rocket in the air space of Khost Division on February 9, 1987 and crashed, killing 30 passengers, including women, children and old men, and a crew of six.

Recourse to such crimes at a time when the policy of national accord is being carried on by the DRA government means that the reactionary and imperialist circles are encouraging the extremist group to interrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the DRA

through such events.

The Shooting down of the plane by the imperialist and reactionary circles is contrary to all accepted international norms and can bring nothing but a prolongation of war and tension around Afghanistan.

While believing that all the peace-loving people of the world will voice their protest against such an inhuman policy, we urge you to carry your high legal and philanthropic mission through protesting at this act that runs counter to all accepted international norms and play your role in preventing recurrence of such illegal acts.

Abdul Wakil,  
Minister of Foreign  
Affairs.

INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION  
OF THE TERRORISTIC ACT

The International Union of Students' on behalf of millions of world students, has strongly condemned the inhuman action by extremist groups in shotting down an Afghan passenger plane which resulted in the death of men, women and children.

In a message addressed to the Central Committee of the DYOA the Union has said that the extremists backed by USA and Pak military rulers, try to strangulate the process of national reconciliation initiated by the government of the DRA.

The Secretariat of the International Union of Students once again declare its full support and solidarity with the recent peace initiative of the DRA.

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1985

## U.S. Journalist Reported To Die in Afghan War

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Sept. 30 (Reuters) — An American journalist traveling with a Moslem rebel group in southern Afghanistan was killed in a rocket attack on his truck last week, a guerrilla group said today.

A letter from the rebels reported the death and burial of the journalist, the Hezb-I-Islami Party said. He apparently died during an ambush 12 miles east of Kandahar, the group said. His identity was not given.

The guerrilla group said three other Americans who survived the attack were probably still in Kandahar Province. One was reported wounded.

The journalist who died was the third foreign reporter to be killed while covering the six-year-old Afghan war.

The rebel group said one guerrilla was killed and five others wounded in the attack.

The United States Embassy in Islamabad said it had no information about the reported death.

Government Press

Kabul, Afghanistan

March, 1987